

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-05

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSC-01 /007 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO CINCLANT FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 075389

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ANKARA, IZMIR,  
ADANA APRIL 17, 1973 FROM ISTANBUL IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISTANBUL 624

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TU

SUBJECT: TPLA MARTIAL LAW TRIAL OPENS

RJ;: ISTANBUL 343

1. SUMMARY: LONG- ANTICIPATED TRIAL OF THOSE MEMBERS TURKISH  
PEOPLES LIBERATION ARMY ACCUSED ASSISTING MAHIR CAYAN GROUP  
(REFTEL) BEGAN IN ISTANBUL MARTIAL LAW COURT NO 3 APRIL 16.  
OF 256 ACCUSED, DEATH PENALTY BEING DEMANDED FOR TEN WITH  
BALANCE FACING SENTENCES RANGING FROM SIX MONTHS TO FIFTEEN  
YEARS IMPRISONMENT. REPORTEDLY, 25 OF DEFENDENTS ARE WOMEN.  
TRIAL BEING COVERED BY FOREIGN AND LOCAL PRESS REFS. END SUMMARY.

2. MARTIAL LAW TRIAL OF 256 DEFENDANTS ACCUSED OF CRIMES  
RANGING FROM COMPLICITY IN MURDER OF ISTANBUL ISRAELI CONSUL  
GENERAL ELROM TO ASSISTING IN ESCAPE FROM PRISON OF TERRORIST  
MAHIR CAYAN GANG AND ATTEMPTS TO OVERTHROW TURKISH REPUBLIC  
BEGAN UNDER TIGHT SECURITY IN SPECIALLY PREPARED COURTROOM AT  
FIRST ARMY HEADQUARTERS, ISTANBUL. SIGNIFICANTLY, 109 OF  
ACCUSED ARE FORMER PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS TURKISH ARMED FORCES  
INCLUDING 26 FORMER AIR FORCE ACADEMY STUDENTS. BULK OF  
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ACCUSED ARE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES OR STUDENTS WITH ONLY  
SMALL NUMBER FROM LABORING CLASSES.

3. PROSECUTION IS DEMANDING DEATH SENTENCES FOR TEN OF  
ACCUSED INCLUDING ERTUGRUL KURKCU, FORMER PRESIDENT OF OUT-  
LAWED DEV- GENC ORGANIZATION. OTHER SENTENCES DEMANDED RANGE  
FROM SIX MONTHS TO FIFTEEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT.

4. TRIAL IS BEING HELD UNDER EXTREMELY RIGID SECURITY  
MEASURES AT SELIMIYE BARRACKS PROJECTION ROOM. IN OBVIOUS  
DESIRE SHOW EVEN HANDEDNESS OF TURKISH MILITARY JUSTICE,  
BOTH LOCAL AND FOREIGN PRESS ARE ALLOWED TO ATTEND TRIAL  
SESSIONS. FACT THAT TRIAL BEGINS WITH INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFI-  
CATION EACH OF ACCUSED AND READING OF 530 PAGE INDICTMENT  
MAY DISSUADE SOME OF CORRESPONDENTS FROM CONSISTENT ATTENDANCE  
AT TRIAL PROCEEDINGS.

5. IN RELATED ACTION, ISTANBUL MARTIAL LAW COMMAND  
ANNOUNCED CAPTURE EIGHT SO- CALLED ANARCHISTS IN UNIDENTIFIED  
AREA OF ISTANBUL EARLY MORNING APRIL 16. THREE OF THOSE  
APPREHENDED RESISTED ARREST AND SET FIRE TO HOUSE IN WHICH THEY  
WERE HIDING BEFORE CAPTURE. NAMES OF THOSE APPREHENDED  
BEING WITHHELD BY MARTIAL LAW COMMAND.

6. CONGEN IS SENDING BY POUCH COPY OF ISTANBUL MARTIAL LAW  
COMMAND PRESS BRIEFING OF MARCH 27 WHICH WAS PRESENTED TO  
AMB HANDLEY BY MARTIAL LAW COMMANDER GEN FAIK TURUN DURING  
FAREWELL CALL HERE LAST WEEK.

MACE  
UNQUOTE PORTER

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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